is able to maintain uninterrupted supply of ethanol for ethanol—blended petrol programme at such prices. At present the public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are implementing the programme in the areas of UP, Uttaranchal, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra States as per the availability of ethanol.

MoP&NG envisages covering the whole country under 5% EBP in the next phase after the programme stabilizes in the notified States/UTs. Also, the ethanol blend percentage could be considered for increasing from 5% to 10% subsequently.

(c) MoP&NG has recently, *inter-alia*, impressed upon the concerned States not to levy any imposts-excise, entry tax, export or import fee or any other kind of levy which does not fall within the jurisdiction of the State Governments on ethanol meant for blending with petrol.

(d) At present, Brazil is the leader in using ethanol as fuel. In Brazil, the vehicles use 22% ethanol blended petrol. They also have flexi fuel vehicles which could run even on 100% ethanol. The other countries include USA. Australia, Sweden, Thailand, etc.

Sharing of subsidy loss with private players

†818. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering upon any scheme for putting some burden of the loss being occurred by the companies who are marketing oil by selling domestic cooking gas (LPG) and kerosene on Reliance Industries and other refineries;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the latest position; and

(c) by when the above scheme of making the private refineries partners in the subsidy loss is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Government is encouraging PSU Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to move towards a system in which they are able to pass on a part of the burden of under-recoveries on PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG to the refineries incldluing private sector through commercial agreements.

Commercial discounts were offered by refineries including private sector refineries during 2005-06. It is expected that similar discounts could be obtained in the current year.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.